

SOUND TRANSIT OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Summary Minutes

December 8, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Chair Dave Enslow, in the Ruth Fisher Boardroom, 401 South Jackson Street, Seattle, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Chair

(P) Dave Enslow, Sumner Mayor

Vice Chair

(P) John Marchione, Redmond Mayor

Boardmembers

(P) Fred Butler, Issaquah Deputy Council President

(P) Paul Roberts, Everett Council President

(P) Claudia Thomas, Lakewood Councilmember

(A) Pete von Reichbauer, King County Councilmember

Katie Flores, Board Coordinator, announced that a quorum of the committee was present at roll call.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Enslow announced that the agenda had been revised to add Resolution No. R2011-22 as item 6D.

DEPUTY CEO REPORT

Celia Kupersmith, Deputy CEO reported that CEO Joni Earl spoke before the Puyallup City Council about the parking challenges Sounder riders are experiencing. Sound Transit is working to address the challenges resulting from the City's new parking management policies and the loss of commuter parking at the Cornforth Lot.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Ridership and Operations Report

Bonnie Todd, Executive Director of Operations reported on October ridership and system performance. Ridership on Tacoma Link is up more than 14%. The opening of the Commerce Street Station, the start of the fall quarter at the University of Washington Tacoma, and parking changes have possibly contributed to the increase. Sounder weekday ridership on the south line is up more than 23%; perhaps due to the closure of the Alaska Way Viaduct during the last week of November. ST Express ridership increased on all routes and overall ridership increased 10%. Routes serving SR 520 and Snohomish County had the highest ridership increases. Central Link ridership was up more than 14% over October 2010 ridership.

Most of the performance measures are being met except for Central Link passengers per trip, and complaints from Sounder passengers; most are about parking. Central Link headway performance hit a year high at more than 94%; on-time performance is above 90% for the third month in a row.

Pierce Transit is adjusting their afternoon schedule to provide more capacity between the Puyallup Sounder Station and the Red lot. Use of the Red Lot has been at 70% capacity per day since the closure of the Cornforth lot.

Ms. Todd reported that there was a fatality on Sounder on December 1, 2011.

Sounder service was disrupted by a mudslide on November 23, 2011 that blocked all trains from Everett to Seattle after the first train. A bus bridge was established to provide service to Sounder riders traveling to and from Seattle.

Boardmember Butler requested that the modal report include farebox recovery by mode; Ms. Todd noted that the 2012 system performance report would include that information. Ms. Kupersmith also noted that Sounder ridership will be reported for the North and South Sounder lines in future ridership number reports.

Briefing on Parking Management

Ms. Kupersmith noted that the parking management briefing had been on the agenda for the Executive Committee on December 1, 2011, however, the Committee referred it to the Operations and Administration Committee. Ric Ilgenfritz, Executive Director of Planning, Environment and Project Development, and Ms. Todd provided the report.

The Board updated its parking policy in 2002. Parking is on a first come, first serve basis with a 24-hour maximum parking duration. There are no preferences for carpools or vanpools at Sound Transit facilities, and use of the facilities by non-transit users is allowed.

Sound Transit has more than 13,000 parking spaces at 23 separate facilities. Sound Transit owns and operates 11,000 spaces, jointly owns and operates 2,300 and leases 700. 10 of the facilities are at 95% or higher utilization, seven are above 85% utilization. 600 spaces are Link, 6,349 are ST Express, and 6,357 are Sounder. Under ST2, an additional 9,805 parking spaces are planned; 5,225 for Link, 500 for ST Express and up to 4,080 for Sounder based on the results of the Sounder Station Access and Demand study.

Current responses to parking demand include increasing enforcement of parking time limits, looking at leasing additional parking lots, and planning for ST2 parking. Parking policy goals include increasing ridership, improving the customer experience, maximize facilities and financial resources, and improving coordination with jurisdictions and transit partners. Potential tools include adding parking restrictions and enforcement, allocating areas for carpools or other groups, charging for parking at some facilities, and adding parking capacity through leasing or partnerships. Sound Transit currently does not have criteria for leasing additional parking capacity. Sound Transit could also look at developing or expanding access to stations via bicycling or walking, or working with partners on feeder service. In addition, Sound Transit can communicate with the public about available parking and inform the public about other ways to access stations.

A Sounder Station Access Study is underway, and a Parking Pricing Study was conducted in 2010. Sound Transit also did a request for information for parking management in 2011 to gauge interest from parking management firms. Next steps include bringing policy ideas to the Board and reporting on the results of the Sounder Station Access Study and Board consideration of policy changes.

Boardmembers asked that Sound Transit work with transit partners to develop ways to deal with parking demand. Boardmembers also asked that paid parking be examined—including charging more for parking closer to major transit destinations.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes of the November 10, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee Meeting

It was moved by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, seconded by Boardmember Roberts, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that the minutes of the November 10, 2011 Operations and Administration Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Motion No. M2011-83: Authorizing the chief executive officer to execute a one-year contract with two one-year options to extend with McBee Strategic to provide federal relations consulting services for a total authorized contract amount not to exceed \$1,483,632.

Ann McNeil, Government Relations Manager, gave the staff presentation.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Paul W. Locke

It was moved by Vice Chair Marchione, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Motion No. M2011-83 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2011-21: Adopting the 2012 Service Implementation Plan, authorizing the chief executive officer to implement recommended service changes in 2012 and approving the use of preliminary 2013-2017 service changes for planning and forecasting purposes.

Mike Bergman, Service Planning Manager, reviewed the 2012 Service Implementation Plan. He noted that the draft Service Implementation Plan included a proposal to change Sound Transit route 574—Lakewood to SeaTac Airport, to serve the Lakewood Sounder Station instead of the Lakewood Transit Center. There was no public support for the proposal and ridership could be negatively affected, so the proposal to change the routing has been removed from the 2012 Service Implementation Plan.

Public Comment

(Comments on file with the Board Administrator)

Paul W. Locke

It was moved by Boardmember Thomas, seconded by Committee Vice Chair Marchione, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2011-21 be approved as presented.

Resolution No. R2011-22: Amending the Adopted 2011 Annual Budget for Non-Operating Expenses from \$50,314,431 to \$51,024,491.

Pete Rogness, Budget and Financial Planning Director, gave the staff presentation.

It was moved by Boardmember Butler, seconded by Boardmember Thomas, and carried by the unanimous vote of all Boardmembers present that Resolution No. R2011-22 be forwarded to the Board with a do-pass recommendation.

ST FLEET COMPOSITION PRESENTATION

Chair Enslow announced that the ST Fleet Composition Presentation would be rescheduled to the next meeting of the Operations and Administration Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Brian McCartan, CFO requested direction from the Committee on an amendment to the 2011 Budget for transit operations. The 2011 Budget includes \$32,833,069 for Sounder, \$97,113,406 for Regional Express, \$4,230,205 for Tacoma Link and \$51,500,877 for Central Link, plus an overall contingency of \$1,400,000. A budget amendment is needed because fuel costs for Sounder and Regional Express are expected to exceed the budget. Tacoma Link and Central Link are expected to be within budget. Because Sound Transit's partners do not bill Sound Transit until the first quarter of 2012, the total over-expenditure is not known at this time. The amount of the over expenditure for Sounder and Regional Express will be within the total 2011 transit operations budget.

He asked the Committee for direction on when to take the budget amendment to the full Board; in December 2011, or when the total amount is known. Because the total amount is not known now, there is a risk that an estimated amount would not cover the shortfall.

The Committee asked that a budget amendment be brought in May 2012 when the total amount is known. Mr. McCartan also noted that the 2012 budget resolution will include the authority to use the transit operations contingency so long as the Board is notified in advance.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday January 19, 2012
1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Ruth Fisher Boardroom

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.



Paul Roberts
Operations and Administration Committee Chair

ATTEST:



Katie Flores
Board Coordinator

APPROVED on March 1, 2012, KWF